

### **REMARKS**

The application has been thoroughly reviewed in light of the outstanding Office Action dated September 15, 2005. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-18 and 25-38 are currently pending, with claims 1, 25, 33-35 and 38 being independent. Claims 2-5, 6, 9, 14 19-24, 39 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice and/or disclaimer of subject matter (claims 3-5, 14, 24, 39 and 40 having been previously canceled). Claims 1, 25, 27, 28 33-35 and 38 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 22 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form. To that end, each of independent claims 1, 25, 33-35 and 38 have been amended to include the feature recited in prior (now canceled) claim 22. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of all prior art rejections is now respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the amendments made to claims 27 and 28 address the §112, second paragraph rejection set out on pages 2-3 of the Action.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all the issues raised in the outstanding Action have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

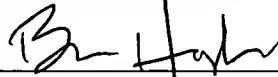
It is believe that no fees are due for the present response, however, in the event that it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Ref. No. 21535-001, Customer No. 35437.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 692-6803. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Date: Feb. 15, 2006

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